

VENONA

~~TOP SECRET~~

USSR

Ref. No. 3/NBF/T1366 (of 27/4/1961)

Issued : 10/4/1964

Copy No. 204

2nd RE-ISSUE

REFERENCE TO JOHN CURTIS, AND A REPORT ON A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF (1944)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No. 880

20 June 44

To: VIKTOR.<sup>[1]</sup>

By post No. 2

[70 groups unrecoverable]

is his chief John CURTIS [KERTIS]<sup>[ii]</sup>, a vice president of the bank and former specialist "in Russian affairs" who went to SMYRNA<sup>[iii]</sup> in 1928 and then became Manager of the bank in HARBIN. K.'s<sup>[iv]</sup> [B's uncle] was DRENTSEL'N who was an aide-de-camp to the [B's Tsar] and died a few years ago in the USSR, which he never left.

[17 groups unrecovered]

1934.

[8 groups unrecovered]

before departure for the Near East. If you agree, state

[44 groups unrecoverable]

Distribution

[Comments overleaf]

3/NBF/T1366

~~TOP SECRET~~

VENONA



**~~TOP SECRET~~**

2

3/NBF/T1366

Comments: [i] VIKTOR : Lt. Gen. P. M. FITIN.

[ii] CURTIS : John Libby CURTIS was an employee and later assistant vice-president of the National City Bank.

[iii] SMYRNA : May be the cover-name for MOSCOW, or may refer to SMYRNA in TURKEY.

[iv] K. : Presumably stands for a cover-name given in the 70 unrecoverable groups at the beginning of the message. Probably Alexander Ivanovich ROMANENKO, who worked under John L. CURTIS at the International Banking Corporation, an affiliate of the National City Bank, in HARBIN. ROMANENKO's mother's name before her marriage was Maria DRETEL'N.

3/NBF/T1366

**~~TOP SECRET~~**